The Southern PATRIOT

Volume 2 | Nashville, Tennessee, October, 1944 | No. 10

NOTE before you VOTE

In a clear and unequivocal statement in his second campaign speech, President Roosevelt denounced the poll tax as a prerequisite for voting, declaring that: "THE RIGHT TO VOTE MUST BE OPEN TO ALL OUR CITIZENS." Attacking those who would use "artificial restrictions" against a full vote, the President stated that the sooner we get to the "basis of political equality, the better it will be for the country as a whole."

* * *

Forward-seeing business men all over the country are lining up in support of the President. One of the most active is Andrew J. Higgins, President of Higgins Industries, and honorary national chairman of Business Men for Roosevelt, who has been on the air several times.

"I am for Roosevelt," says this outstanding Southern manufacturer, "because of his vision in national and international affairs; his fearlessness in coping with the gravest situations that have arisen during his term of office, and because of the hope and confidence he gives for the future."

* * *

The Other Man in Her Life!

SAYS BETTE DAVIS:

"This year, for the first time in history, there are more women eligible to vote than men. This year our men are overseas, arguing a mortal dispute that could not wait. Unfortunately, the process by which our soldiers and sailors can vote has been complicated to such a point that their voices will be lost by the millions. The women here at home will be the conscience of those silenced soldiers and sailors.

"We women are first-class citizens who have learned their responsibilities the hard way, who know that their security, and that of their returning husbands, and that of their unborn sons is bound up on the single, simple gesture that will pull the voting lever down over the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt!"

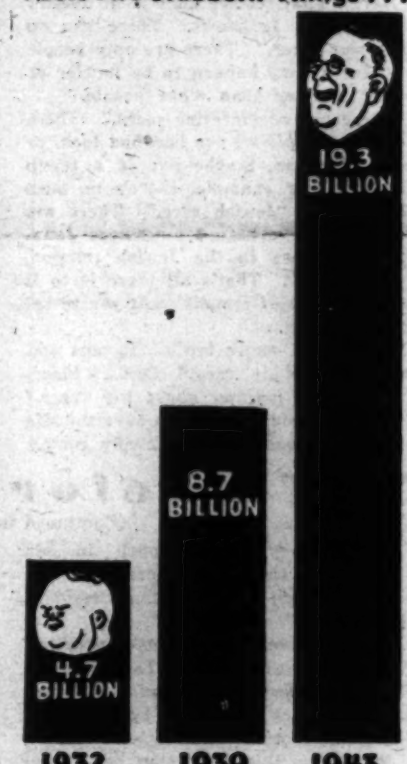
(Continued on Page 2.)

Rebels Face Final Rout as South Rallies to FDR

The danger to President Roosevelt's reelection threatened by the Southern tory Democratic revolt has been crushed. The rebels' carefully planned maneuvers are doomed to hopeless failure because of the Southern peoples' overwhelming support of the President; election day will bring their total collapse.

Though the Tories have not yet given up their fight, their chances of success are non-existent. In Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina and Louisiana, the anti-Roosevelt electors have been smoked out and defeated.

Facts Are Stubborn Things . . .



U. S. CASH FARM INCOME

The chart above shows conclusively that U. S. Farm income has quadrupled under FDR's administration, and knocks down Dewey lies that farmers have been "impoverished."

The New Deal farm record is well known—aid through such agencies as AAA, Farm Security and Rural Electrification. The Republicans also have a farm record: from 1921 to 1926 some 453,000 farmers lost their farms through mortgage foreclosures.

Here are the recent state developments:

—the Texas ringleaders, having been ousted from the state Democratic party, have placed another ticket in the field, the Texas "Regulars." The President got 82 per cent of the Texas vote in 1940, and in spite of the vicious campaign waged against him (see page three), he is the overwhelming favorite today.

—the Governor of Mississippi, who heads the Democratic Party in that state, has given full assurance that the electors from his state will not desert the national ticket.

—Governor Olin Johnston says, "You needn't worry about South Carolina," as he predicted that efforts to put anti-Roosevelt electors on the ballot would not get far in his state.

VOTE

—Louisiana electors, all but two, have pledged to vote for F. D. R., and those two have agreed to resign.

—Florida and Alabama's anti-Roosevelt parties have both been denied a place on the ballot.

Democratic party leaders meeting recently in Atlanta branded the so-called "Southern revolt" a "hopeless failure" and predicted an easy November victory in Dixie for the President.

But Southern citizens face the responsibility and the privilege of VOTING on November 7—to administer a decisive and smashing defeat to the Tories, and to pile up the biggest vote for Roosevelt ever registered in the South.

Go to the polls on election day, rain or shine, and HELP GET OUT THE VOTE.

Texas Educator Stands Up For Free University

Dr. Homer T. Rainey, outstanding Southern leader in the field of liberal education, has gone to bat for academic freedom at the University of Texas.

As President of the University, and with the full backing of the students and faculty, Dr. Rainey has bared to the public the long history of unwarranted interference by the reactionary three-man Board of Regents, appointed by the Governor of Texas.

His lengthy documented account in a speech to faculty members listed sixteen "restrictive measures, actual or attempted" whereby the Board of Regents curtailed the freedom of the University.

The faculty meeting welcomed the speech with sustained applause, and several hundred university students, led by the ROTC band, marched to the Rainey residence to offer their support. The Texas press has given wide prominence to the affair, and many church and student organizations have rallied behind Dr. Rainey.

The charges made ranged from the unfair dismissal of certain professors without hearing or formal charges to the removal of books from reading lists.

Dr. Rainey indicated his belief that the controversy could be resolved only of the Regents would "recognize, guarantee and protect the essential freedoms in the University, that is, freedom of thought, freedom of research and investigation, and freedom of expression."

Dr. Rainey deserves the support of all Southerners in his effort to preserve democracy at the University of Texas.

Youth Conference

All organizations and agencies interested in the problems of youth are invited to send delegates to the Sixth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, November 30 to December 3.

Around the conference theme "Democracy—The Challenge of Victory" panel discussions are planned on:

—*Problems of Veterans.*

—*Economic Security; Training and Jobs; Life on the Farm.*

—*Education.*

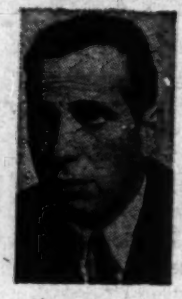
—*Community Welfare: Housing, Health, Recreation.*

—*Constitutional Liberties.*

Further information may be secured from the Southern Negro Youth Congress, 526 Masonic Temple Building, Birmingham, Alabama.

Humphrey Bogart Tells How To Win Medal—From Hitler

by Humphrey Bogart



How'd you like to earn a decoration from Hitler or Hirohito? Here's the way you work it. You don't have to join the German army or the Japanese army. You don't even have to blow up an American war plant.

It's easier than that. All you have to do is follow the line the Germans and their stooges are handing out in this country. All you have to do is swallow the race bunk. That's what the Germans want us to do. They figure that if enough of us talk this race bunk, we'll get to fighting among ourselves. That'll weaken us so much that we'll be easy pickings the next time—even if we should win this time.

Listen, brother. In this man's country, you can marry the girl that you like. You can pal around with the folks you like. You can pray in a church of your own choosing. Okay. But that doesn't mean that one kind of church is better than another.

Let's look at the record.

Here's what science knows. It doesn't say maybe. It knows. There are no "superior races." There are only people who for a time happen to be luckier or better situated than other people.

There are no "inferior races." There are only people who've had bad luck, or poor education, maybe live in a tough climate. For example, there's no such things as a "Jewish race." There are Negro Jews. There are Chinese Jews. If you believe in the Jewish religion, you're a Jew. That's all there is to it—although the Germans want you to believe different.

Examine a man's brain. It tells you nothing about his "race." Test his blood. It tells you nothing about his "race." (Healthy blood plasma can save the life of any wounded soldier of any color.)

Nor does skin color mean a thing except that certain people have a little more of a chemical, melanin, in their skins, and that makes them look more or less like Joe Louis; and others have a little more of a chemical, carotene, in their skins, and that makes them look a little more like me.

It's funny, isn't it, that the peoples of this earth who are responsible for the fact that decent Americans are suffering and dying today—the German and Japanese rulers—are exactly the two groups who believe in "race superiority" and "race inferiority" and who are out to murder everybody who does not agree with them.

So—if you want to be a German or a Japanese stooge, you know how to go about it. Just get out in the street or talk to your neighbor and preach race prejudice.

Hitler will bless you. Hirohito will applaud you. In fact, you'll be a damned good Japanese, a damned good German.

There's only one thing you won't be.

You won't be a good American.

NOTE before you VOTE

(Continued from Page 1.)

Gov. Dewey makes much in his speeches of the "motley crew," as he calls it, which is supporting President Roosevelt.

Among prominent persons supporting Gov. Dewey are: Gerald L. K. Smith, Sewell L. Avery, Frank Gannett, Robert R. McCormack, Elizabeth Dilling, Ham Fish, and Cotton Ed Smith.

What else this crew may be, it certainly is motley.

Voters in Arkansas and Florida are being urged by the National Association of Manufacturers, Christian-America, and their allies to vote on November 7 for an amendment to their state constitutions which, under the guise of protecting the "right to work" would practically smash the labor movement by outlawing every union shop contract.

Speaking before the Arkansas legislature when this measure was being considered, Sen. W. Lee O'Daniels exposed the intent of the legislation, when he further urged the repeal of the National Labor Relations Act and the Wage-Hour Law.

The "Christian-American" fascist outfit has campaigned for such amendments in all the Southern states. Arkansas and Florida voters now have an opportunity to repudiate them, once and for all.

Senator Harry S. Truman made quite a hit on his recent trip to New Orleans. Among those attending a luncheon in his honor were: Senators Overton, McClellan, Bilbo and Fulbright; Andrew Jackson Higgins, and CIO officers George S. Mitchell and Robert Starnes. Asked to comment on Republican criticism of the CIO Political Action Committee, he replied, "Organized Labor has exactly the same right as the National Association of Manufacturers, or any other organization, to participate in politics."

PATRIOT EXPOSE

SOUTHERN SMEAR SHEETS BARED

Texas Magazines Lash Roosevelt— But to No Avail

If you want to avoid symptoms of dizziness, recurrent nightmares and color blindness, you'd better not sit down to read a stack of the *W. Lee O'Daniels News* and *The Southern Weekly*. Perhaps you will see what I mean. If you glance over the eight-column banner heads of the O'Daniels News for the last few issues:

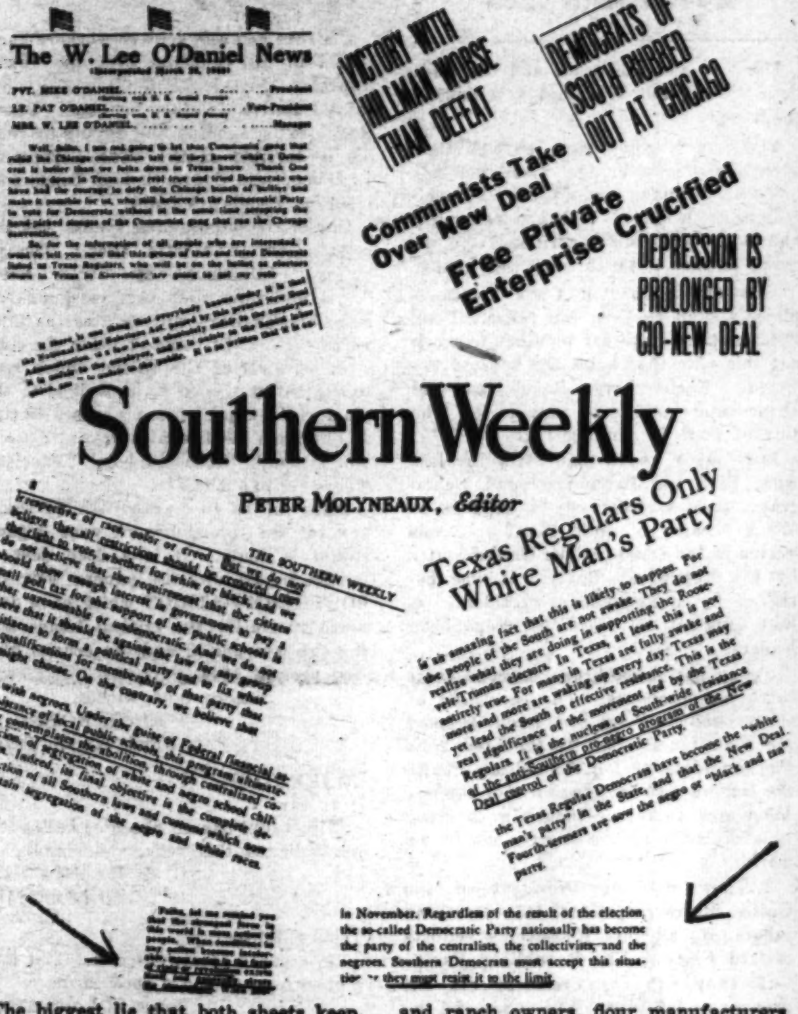
Washington Needs Thorough Housecleaning
Washington Moves Toward Dictatorship
Private Enterprise Threatened
Power Politicians Control USA
Bunglecrats Victimize Farmers
Free Private Enterprise Crucified
Communists Take Over New Deal
Power Politicians Control Nation

These two weekly smear sheets have the same message but for different audiences. O'Daniels does the rabble-rousing, while Peter Molyneaux, Editor of the *Southern Weekly*, supplies information for the executives, the politicians, the reactionary editors.

The front page of the *W. Lee O'Daniels News* is flanked by "The Senator's Column" on the left, and the latest speech by the Senator on the right, with the Senator's favorite slogan — WHAT AMERICAN NEEDS MOST IS A THOROUGH HOUSECLEANING IN WASHINGTON—slung across the bottom.

Inside may be found the stirring words of Fulton Lewis and George Sokolsky, and material supplied by Gannett's Committee for Constitutional Government. The paper is published weekly in Washington, and subscription rates are $5 a year; but the Senator will be delighted to place you on his free mailing list if you indicate the slightest interest.

"The Southern Weekly," which was until January of this year called "Texas Banking and Industry" is published in Dallas, Texas, by the Molyneaux-Lewis Publishing Company. It is the Bible of the anti-Roosevelt forces who led so unsuccessfully the "Texas revolt." In this connection, one of Molyneaux's headlines appearing shortly before the September convention is amusing: "Nation's Eyes Are on the Texas Convention—BUT IT WILL NOT BE IMPORTANT UNLESS IT BACKS THE STAND OF THE MAY CONVENTION!"


The W. Lee O'Daniel News
VICTORY WITH HALLMAN WORSE THAN DEFEAT
DEMOCRATS OF SOUTH RUBBED OUT AT CHICAGO
Communists Take Over New Deal
Free Private Enterprise Crucified
DEPRESSION IS PROLONGED BY CIO-NEW DEAL
Southern Weekly
PETER MOLYNEAUX, Editor
Texas Regulars Only White Man's Party
THE SOUTHERN WEEKLY
In November, Regardless of the result of the election, the so-called Democratic Party nationally has become the party of the centralists, the collectivists and the negroes. Southern Democrats must accept this situation as they must resign it to the limit.

The biggest lie that both sheets keep hammering away at is that the Roosevelt administration is hostile to the South. Nothing of course could be farther from the truth. But the contributors to the O'Daniels racket reveal the people that hate the Roosevelt administration. As exposed by the Senate Campaign Expenditures Committee, they include: $25,000 contributors—Republican Senator E. H. Moore of Oklahoma and H. R. Cullen, wealthy Texas oil man, and more than eighty other donators of over $1,000 each!

O'Daniels raised over $109,000 to finance the paper and a series of daily radio broadcasts over 87 different stations. The money was collected in the name of the "Common Citizens Radio Committee," but the Senate group was unable to find any common citizens who contributed, unless you count oil men and ranch owners, flour manufacturers and coca-cola executives.

A glance at some of the clippings reproduced here indicates the main lines of attack: The aim of the New Deal is to destroy the social customs of the South—"the Roosevelt administration is ready at all times to enforce racial equality;" "Democrats Lose Control of Party to Reds." Proof? Here you are:

"There are hundreds of bureaus in Washington, with their representatives throughout the nation, but not one has expressed any opposition to either Socialism or Communism."

O'Daniels can do a lot of damage with his $100,000; and the fascist-minded industrialists who contributed it—the men who are really hostile to the Southern people—will undoubtedly cough up more.

But the real democrats of Texas have shown us that money and rabid propaganda doesn't always talk loudest.

WASHINGTON Is Saying

By Elizabeth Allen

The war and the peace and the elections are all that Washington is talking about now.

The war is going well—so well that each day's news brings closer the collapse of Germany and Japan. But the stream of wounded that are returning haunts us with their sacrifice. Are we going to have to go through this again?

Out of Dumbarton Oaks comes a plan—a plan to keep the peace. Four great nations have sat together to work out this plan that holds the hope of the world. Each party, Republican and Democratic promise to support it. The tide of hope is running high.

But—there was a plan after the last war; both the Republican and Democratic parties promised to support it. What became of that Plan? It was gutted in the Senate of the United States by the Republican Party. It was betrayed by a Republican President. It was laughed to scorn by Republican leaders.

Today the Republicans promise those same fine promises. The candidate of the Republican Party promises to support the Plan for Peace. At the same time the candidate of the Republican Party, the leaders and newspapers that support them, are doing all they can to bring about disunity in this country and in the world:

1. They say the President of the United States got us into this war. Who sabotaged all of Roosevelt's efforts toward peace? The Republican Party.

2. They say the President did not prepare us for War. Who sabotaged the program of preparedness? The Republican Party.

3. Who is sowing distrust and hatred of our ally, the Soviet Union? The Republican Party.

4. Who is breeding anti-Semitic propaganda by their campaign against Sidney Hillman? The Republican Party.

5. They say the President never lifted his finger to get rid of the poll tax. They claim he has betrayed the Southern people both Negro and white. Who sabotaged the Anti-Poll Tax Bill? The Republican Party, with their poll-tax allies—in their votes against cloture.

We trust the Southern people will go to the polls in the general election, and by the size of their vote for the Democratic candidate, give the country to understand that we know a liar when we hear one and we know our friends from our enemies.

Letters To The PATRIOT

To the Editor:

I'm sure you and your co-workers have joined in the rejoicing over the Texas Supreme Court decision. This body blow to the native fascists has the "Texas Regulars" screaming and raving as they die a horrible death! The September 12 Democratic Convention of Texas was indeed a People's Victory.

One of the outstanding events was the repudiation of Martin Dies. Though he was introduced by Butler with, ". . . and now your Congressman, the Hon. Martin Dies, will address the Convention . . .," he couldn't utter the first word because of the booing which rose to a great crescendo as he walked to the platform! Some of the phrases hurled at him from the delegates were: "Hitler's No. 1 man," "Goebbel's boy," "Fascist," "Throw him out!"

Many of us in Texas wish to thank you for the splendid work your organization is doing. It is a deep debt of gratitude we owe to papers like the SOUTHERN PATRIOT which have done much to clarify the critical issues during the war period and the crucial election year of 1944.

Sincere best wishes,
RUTH KOENIG,
Forth Worth, Texas.

CORRECTION:
Dear Sir.

Mississippi has an absentee ballot law, just adopted this year, and simple.

C. G. HAMILTON,
Aberdeen, Miss.

To the Editor:

Be assured of my interest. You have a good journal and a good cause.

JOHN C. CONNELLY,
Trenton, Texas.
Member State Legislature.

"Critical situation, hell! Notice how erosion has eaten away the best topsoil."

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To the Editor:

An amusing but significant incident happened as I was going home late last night whereby the PATRIOT comes in for considerable praise.

A group of people, Negro and white, stood waiting on a busy downtown street for the street car. A young white man in his early thirties said: "We could all have seats if it weren't for so many N———s." . . . I could easily sense the disgust of the standersby, but no one said anything to him.

This same fellow sat down beside me on the car. As I started reading the PATRIOT, he looked down at the paper and saw the headlines: "Army Affirms Order Against Segregation." That was the first thing he saw. He began to look sidewise at me and then back to the PATRIOT. When he had finished reading the article I turned over to the editorial page, hoping he would read the editorial "Soldiers Deserve Democracy."

Abruptly, he said: "Pardon me, but where do you work?"

I told him, "The Southern Confergnce for Human Welfare." I wrote it on the PATRIOT so he could see.

Sensing his curiosity I handed him a copy of the paper. He started reading. "Well, I don't know," he muttered.

After he'd looked at the page of registration rules he said: "Who do I see to subscribe to this paper?" I told him, "I'll take your subscription."

He had nothing further to say about the article and editorial on Army Order Against Segregation. Before getting off the car he said: "You know, I think it's a shame to make the Southerns pay a poll tax. They don't do it in no other states." He added: "Thanks for the paper. I want my wife to read it. And I think I'm going to subscribe to it. Say it's only fifty cents a year?"

I think this must have been the first article he'd ever read which explained in simple terms why race prejudice is inconsistent with what we are fighting for. More power to the "Patriot"! May it gain more readers everyday.

PAULINE DOBBS,
Birmingham, Ala.

To the Editor:

I enclose a check for $6.00. I wish to take advantage of your reduced prices to introduce your splendid little paper to some of my friends. (List of 12 new subscribers.)

Good luck to your worthy efforts.

MRS. L. F. BUCKNER,
Lemont, Illinois.

The Southern PATRIOT

OCTOBER 1944
VOLUME 2 NUMBER 10

Published monthly by The Southern Conference for Human Welfare, 505-507 Presbyterian Building, Nashville, Tennessee. Five cents per copy, 50c a year. Twenty or more copies mailed to the same address, 25c a year. Entered as second class matter, November 20, 1942, at the Postoffice, Nashville, Tennessee, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

Officers

ALVA W. TAYLOR, *Secretary-Treasurer* — CLARK FOREMAN, *President*

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI, *Executive Secretary and Editor*

Vote Your Answer!

Everybody knows that if you want to make people believe a lie, the thing to do is make it as big as possible and say it as often as possible. You'll have to hand it to the anti-Roosevelt tories for cooking up about the biggest lie yet and they say it every few minutes—"the Democratic Administration under Roosevelt has worked against the South"—or simpler, "the anti-Southern program of the New Deal".

Is there a Southerner who can defend that accusation?

Is there a Southerner—working man, farmer, white collar worker, professional or businessman—who has not benefitted under the Roosevelt administration?

Was there ever a President of the United States who was more concerned with the problems of the Southern people, and who did more to help them?

Did the New Deal ruin the South—or did it save the South?

★ ★ ★

Seven out of every ten Southerners live on the farms. In 1932, the farmer was the most despairing of all our citizens. Since that time, overall farm income has quadrupled; the dangerous growth of farm tenancy in the South has been checked and thousands of Southern farmers now own their own farms; many more thousands are leading useful, productive and happy lives as a result of the loans of the Farm Security Administration; their farms and homes have been electrified through the efforts of the REA; millions of acres of land have been saved from erosion through the New Deal's soil conservation measures; farm mortgage charges are down 40 per cent. Remember the TVA?

What is your answer, farmers? Has the New Deal been hostile to you?

★ ★ ★

To the workers in the mines and mills of the South, thirty-cent-an-hour wages seem a pretty dim memory now. But the Wage-Hour Act was the work of the Roosevelt Administration. And the labor unions that changed the lives of Southern factory workers weren't able to grow and flourish without interference until the passage of the National Labor Relations Act. These two New Deal measures largely account for the phenomenally rapid rise of Southern per capita income in the last twelve years.

What is your answer, labor? Is this an anti-Southern" program?

★ ★ ★

What about the businessmen?

Have you forgotten that the Democrats took a banking structure which had had 5,770 failures in the four years of Hoover, with a loss to depositors and stockholders of more than three billion dollars, and restored confidence, virtually eliminated failures and insured losses? Can you operate without stable banks?

Do you recall that in 1932 alone, 32,000 small businesses failed? Are you impressed by the rise in national income from 40 billion to 150 billion dollars? Doesn't the extra money in the hands of workers and farmers mean prosperity for you?

Where would you be today but for the Roosevelt Administration? What is your answer? Do your mounting profits indicate hostility?

★ ★ ★

The South today is dotted with monuments to the New Deal: the TVA dams and lakes; the new roads, the bridges, the public buildings, the playgrounds, parks and swimming pools, and perhaps most beautiful of all—the new housing that has brought comfort and security to thousands.

Does this spell ruin for our Southland?

★ ★ ★

Well, WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER, Southerners? GO TO THE POLLS ON NOVEMBER SEVENTH, AND ANSWER.

★ ★ ★

Tribute To Wendell Willkie

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare feels that the death of Wendell Willkie is a great loss to the cause of democracy in America and throughout the world.

Unlike the present leaders of the Republican Party, with whom he differed, Mr. Willkie viewed the world as One, and fought to have the United States take its full part in making it a world where all people might live in peace and happiness.

His honesty and integrity were representative of the best America has to offer the world. We have lost a powerful force for good.

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Two Authors Recreate South's History In Challenging Novels

THE RED COCK CROWS, by Frances Gaither. Macmillan Co., $2.75.
FREEDOM ROAD, by Howard Fast. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, $2.75.

These two excellent historical novels bring to life with striking vividness two buried and half-forgotten chapters in the history of the South.

"The Red Cock Crows" is the work of a Southern woman who has been delving with scientific detachment into the past of her region and her people. Its subject is a slave revolt in Mississippi in 1835. More specifically, it is a picture of the moral standards and ways of life of the white community and how these were transformed by the growing fear of Negro rebellion.

Miss Gaither's hero is a New England school teacher who comes into the deep South to open a school. Though his ethical and religious beliefs give him a fundamental distaste for slavery, nothing is further from his mind than to try to interfere with the South's peculiar institution. In fact he falls in love with the gaiety, color, leisure and apparent peacefulness of his surroundings—and also with the daughter of the wealthiest of the local planters. At first, the South seems to him a veritable paradise. Yet, as rumors of slave revolt gather, the white community organizes to answer with summary death anyone whose slightest lack of enthusiasm for slavery might have encouraged the Negroes to make a fight for freedom. From the ensuing crisis, the mild Yankee intellectual barely escapes with his life.

Blackstone Studios, N. Y.

FRANCES GAITHER
Author of
"The Red Cock Crows," etc.
(Macmillan)

New Slant on Reconstruction

"Freedom Road" is the newest, most mature and most exciting work from the pen of Howard Fast, the young man who has set himself the task of effecting a one-man revolution in the American historical novel, and whose fiction-form biographies of George Washington and Tom Paine have already brought him much favorable comment.

Its thesis is that the Reconstruction years in the South saw the development of a workable and genuinely American democratic pattern of life, based on an alliance of the freed Negroes with the poor whites who had never been slaveholders; that this alliance gave the Southern states the most advanced and democratic constitutions they ever had and introduced for the first time in the South such far-reaching democratic reforms as universal compulsory education and (almost complete) legal equality for women; that this regime had already succeeded when it was betrayed by the Republican Party under Rutherford B. Hayes, who agreed, in exchange for the votes of two Southern states, that the federal government would keep hands off while the ex-slaveholders wiped out the new democracy in the blood of its leaders of both races, re-established their power through the violence and terrorism of the KKK, and forced the Negro people back into an approximation of slavery.

1876 and 1944

Though Fast does not make the point, the reader can hardly fail to be impressed with the similarity between the alliance of Wall Street and the Southern landed aristocracy which produced the Hayes agreement and the present combination of Byrd Democrats and Dewey Republicans against Roosevelt.

Fast's case is as convincing as it is sensational. "Freedom Road" will profoundly affect the thinking on Southern history and problems of every person who reads it.

Though these two novels are wide apart in style, method and atmosphere, the fundamental idea is the same in both: *We cannot keep another people in subjection without losing our own freedom in the process.*

Keeping Current

We're way behind! There are so many current top-notch books that a Southern patriot *must* read to keep up with history, and we haven't had the space to review them all. The two books we review here are imperatives. Next month we will cover two more: *Democracy Begins at Home*, by Jennings Perry (Lippincott) and *Deep River*, by Henrietta Buckmaster (Harcourt Brace).

• • •

Perry's tale of Tennessee poll-tax politics, we promise you, is more thrilling than a murder mystery; and "Deep River," portraying the pre-Civil War South, belongs in the same high class of the historical novels reviewed today.

Other recent books which should be interesting include:

Pitchfork Ben Tillman, by Francis B. Simkins, Louisiana State University Press;

Our Civil Liberties, by Osmond K. Fraenkel, Viking Press;

Jim Crow Joins Up, by Ruth Wilson, Press of Wm. J. Clark;

A Faith to Free the People, by Cedric Belfrage, Dryden Press;

Citizen Toussaint, by Ralph L. Corngold, Little Brown;

1944 Negro Handbook, edited by Florence Murray, Current Reference Publications.

• • •

Two recent government publications have come to our attention which some of our readers may find useful. The first is an excellent factual history of the accomplishments of the Roosevelt Administration, called DOMESTIC STABILITY, NATIONAL DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION OF WORLD WAR II: Legislative and Executive Background, 1933-1944.

• • •

The second is a report from the Senator Pepper's Sub-committee on Wartime Health and Education, dealing with juvenile delinquency. Both publications can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office.

• • •

Parents will be happy to learn of an article in the October "American Unity," a monthly educational guide published by the Council Against Intolerance in America, which lists children's books presenting an unbiased, accurate, well-rounded picture of Negro life. The address of the magazine is 17 East 42nd Street, New York City.

The Patriot Salutes HUGO L. BLACK

Southerners of the stripe of Rankin of Mississippi and Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina would have the world believe that progress and "small d" democracy are yankee and foreign "isms". In spite of them, the South continue to produce a significant output of progressive leaders, not only of its own people but of the whole nation. One of these who is little known to the general public, but who is playing a role of extraordinary significance in the forward march of American democracy, is Alabama's Hugo Black, Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

When he was appointed in 1937, Black might easily have been voted the Justice least likely to succeed. The appointment was not a popular one. Black was feared by the reactionaries for his liberal record. Many liberals looked askance at him because he had once joined the Klan (although it was admitted he had never played an active part in the KKK and had soon dropped out). Professional lawyers pooh-poohed the appointment because they thought years of judgeships in the state or lower federal courts more proper seasoning for the supreme bench that Black's active life of law-making in the Senate. But, in seven years, Black has confounded the critics and silenced the doubters. He has done more. Today he is the recognized leader and spokesman of the court's progressive majority.

This turning of the tables is not really surprising. It is the logical outcome of all of Black's past career.

Black is a product of the hill country—a region which has produced progressive Southern leadership ever since pre-civil war times, when the poor whites took refuge there because they could not compete with the wealthy slaveowners who grabbed up the more fertile land of the valleys. He spent his boyhood in the small town of Ashland, Alabama, during the exciting period when the small farmers of the South and West were allied with labor in the Populist movement. Without having finished high school, he entered law school at the University of Alabama at the age of 18, graduated with honors at 20. From an almost penniless start in his profession in Birmingham, he built up a successful and brilliant practice. But he built it as champion of the underdog, the working man, the poor farmer, the small trader, the abused Negro, rather than the easy-riches road of corporation counsel. During his eleven years in the Senate, from 1920 to 1937, he continued his championship of the little fellow, winning recognition as the Senate's ace investigator and achieving national fame for his brilliant investigation of lobbying, which exposed the corrupting influence of big money in the halls of Congress.

Thus, his whole career from the beginning has qualified him to view the law not as a mass of sacred ritual, but as a practical shield for live human beings. And especially as a shield for those who need one most—the working man, the poor farmer, the minority groups, whether of politics, race or religion—all those, in short, who are most vulnerable to injustice and persecution when the law withholds its protection.

Characteristic of Blacks' constructive approach to the law is his sane and courageous precedent-smashing stand on the 14th Amendment.

The 14th is one of the three post-Civil War Reconstruction Amendments. It was passed to protect the civil and political rights of individuals from invasion by the states. Its most important provision is that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

In the years that followed adoption of the 14th Amendment, the Supreme Court applied it narrowly, warily and seldom in civil liberties cases. At the same time it twisted the 14th Amendment into a great Magna Charta of freedom from regulation for corporations. This, the most fabulous piece of legal skullduggery in American history, was accomplished by injecting into the law the following three extraordinary doctrines: (1) That a corporation is "a person," (2) That to interfere with its profits is to "deprive it of property", (3) That a statute passed in the normal, legal manner by a state legislature or the national congress is not "due process of law" unless it is "reasonable"!

Whether from respect for precedent or approval of the result, no Supreme Court justice for half a century spoke out against this outrageous sophistry, until 1937 when Black, in his freshman year on the bench, advanced the heretical idea that the 14th Amendment means what it says—and proved it with solid legal reasoning and a searching examination of historical documents.

Black's 14th Amendment opinion was a lone dissent in 1937. But this Southern progressive's prestige and leadership on the bench is growing so steadily and so fast that some believe it will soon be the majority view of the Court—and hence the law. If so, it will be the most far-reaching reformation ever accomplished in American constitutional law.

Black's philosophy of law is well summarized in his own words in one of the Court's opinions:

> **"Under our constitutional system, courts stand against any winds that blow as havens of refuge for those who might otherwise suffer because they are helpless, weak, outnumbered, or because they are non-conforming victims of prejudice and public excitement. . . No higher duty, no more solemn responsibility, rests upon this Court than that of translating into living law and maintaining this constitutional shield deliberately planned and inscribed for the benefit of every human being subject to our Constitution—of whatever race, creed, or persuasion."**